



SAN DIEGO DISTRICT OFFICE

U. S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MEDIA ADVISORY

Release Date: March. 8, 2002

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SAN DIEGO REGIONAL HEARING GIVES SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AGAINST EXCESSIVE ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

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| WHO: | SBA National Ombudsman Michael L. Barrera, members of the Regional Regulatory Fairness Board, and representatives of federal regulatory agencies will hear concerns, comments and complaints about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance. Small business owners, representatives of community organizations and trade associations, and community and business leaders are invited to testify about compliance and enforcement of federal regulations by government regulators. | |
| WHAT: | The U. S. Congress has asked the SBA and the national ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness Board (RegFair) hearings, such as this one in San Diego. Concerns and complaints aired at this hearing will be directed to the appropriate federal regulatory agency. Testimony gathered at RegFair Hearings about federal regulatory activity and comments, concerns and complaints filed with the national ombudsman are reported to Congress each year. | |
| WHEN: | Regulatory Fairness Hearing Monday, March 11 8:30 am. to 11:30 p.m. | Roundtable on SBA Plans & Programs Monday, March 11 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. |
| WHERE: | Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room 2150 Pan American Road West San Diego, CA 92101 | |
| MEDIA: | The hearing is open to the press and the public. Ombudsman Barrera will be available for media interviews at 8:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. March. 11, or as arranged. | |

Anyone desiring confidentiality may request that his or her name not be released and may submit written testimony in lieu of a public appearance at the hearing.

Any small business burdened by federal regulations can either contact their local SBA district office or the National Ombudsman at 888-REG-FAIR (888-734-3247) or 202-205-2417. Or go to the National Ombudsman Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman
Contact for the SBA San Diego District Office is Suzanne Ghorpade at 1-619-557-7250, ext. 1114, or email suzanne.ghorpade@sba.gov .